



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 9, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Alan Nunnelee
U.S. House of Representatives
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nunnelee:

Thank you for forwarding the open letter from some current and former Mississippi public safety officials regarding public safety interoperability across the 700 MHz band. As you point out, the unfortunate truth is that the capability of our emergency response communications hasn't kept pace with what ordinary people and businesses now do every day with communications devices, and our first still responders don't have a much-needed interoperable mobile broadband network.

The Commission stands ready to serve as a resource to Congress and our colleagues across government and in the public safety community.

We have taken numerous actions within its power to advance public safety communications and interoperability in the 700 MHz band. In January 2011, the Commission issued an *Order* requiring that the nationwide public safety broadband network use the commercial Long Term Evolution (LTE) standard. In establishing this standard, the Commission recognized that LTE was the technology of choice in the 700 MHz band and was supported by the public safety community and commercial carriers.

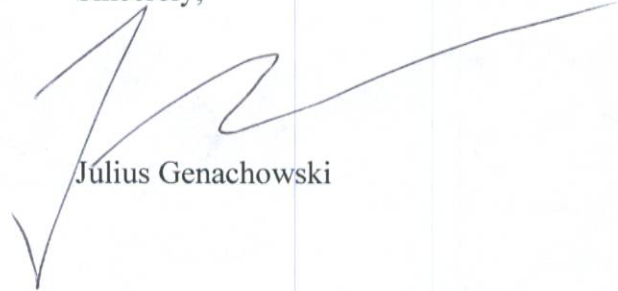
The Commission is among other things considering how best to achieve the goal of interoperability and roaming between the public safety broadband network and commercial networks in the 700 MHz band. The National Broadband Plan recognized that roaming and obtaining priority access on other commercial broadband networks was essential to ensure the necessary resiliency, capacity, and redundancy of a public safety network during emergencies. One way to facilitate this is device interoperability across the 700 MHz band. In late April, the Commission held a public workshop on this topic, which contributed valuable insight on these matters. The discussions developed during this exchange will enhance our understanding of this issue as we consider the most appropriate next steps. In addition, the Chief Engineer from the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has been attending meetings of the industry

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standards-setting bodies where the relevant technical standards are being considered and adopted.

I appreciate your interest in this critically important matter. I look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders, the public safety community, our federal partners, and Members of Congress to get this work done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Julius Genachowski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski